Gastro-intestinal complications
What are they?

What is hardware disease?

Also referred to as traumatic reticuloperitonitis/ traumatic gastritis/ traumatic reticulitis, is not necessarily a disease, but rather mechanical injury to the reticulum. It is resulted by a sharp object (e.g. metal wire) that enters and pierces through the stomach wall & gains access to the heart, which it may perforate into the heart sac.

What is LDA?

Refers to the displacement of the left abomasum which is a common condition seen in dairy cattle & can affect productivity. LDAs are more commonly seen as compared to RDAs. Left abomasal displacement can be caused either by; increased space in the abdomen due to calving, or reduced abomasal motility/ emptying caused by toxemia, hypocalcemia, rumen acidosis or a fatty liver. Correction of this condition involves a laparotomy, which is opening of the abdomen, and deflating the abomasum & attaching it to the abdominal wall with the use of stitches to return it to its original position in the abdomen. Other methods can be used which will be further discussed in the intraoperative procedure.

What is grain overload?

Grain overload is an acute disease which is also known as acidosis or grain poisoning. This occurs when ruminants intake a large quantity of digestible carbohydrates, particularly grain which can ultimately lead to slowing of the gut, bloat, dehydration, and in severe cases, death. Ingestion of this large amount of grain can cause a change in the microbial population in the rumen. The rumen pH drops to 5 or less, leading to destruction of cellulolytic organisms, protozoa and impairing motility of the rumen. The end result is an increase in lactic acid which results in excessive quantities of fluid in the rumen causing dehydration and fluid ruminal contents.

What is a foreign body?

Refers to ingestion of an indigestible metallic or non-metallic object which may be sharp & cause tearing/ perforation of the stomach wall in ruminants.